PROF. K. K. TEWARY: We have not decided about merging the companies. We have thought about organisational framework or structural framework. I will come to the concept of holding companies. To begin with, the holding companies have started functioning in the engineering sector and it is just an experiment. As and when necessity for more holding companies arises, the Government will definitely look into it. I must make it clear that the holding company is not a panacea for all diseases. It is just an experiment. So far as merger is concerned, we have not thought of merger. If there is more tahn one company in the same production line, then we have a very healthy competition. We have not gone in for merger. We have gone in for holding companies because of better coordination and better administrative set up.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Sir, the Minister says that the holding companies will be able to reduce the losses. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that there are companies which are holding companies such as Coal India Limied. If that is the case, I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to why the performance targets have been fixed lower in the case of two companies and in the case of other two, they have made it plus. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the factors which are responsible for such poor performance. How does he explain that some categories of industries, even though they are under the category of holding companies, are not doing well?

PROF. K. K. TEWARY: I would like to know from the hon. Member whether he is addressing Coal Ministry or my Ministry of Public Enterprises.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: I am talking about the industries which are mentioned in the question.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY: It all depends on the internal problems of the company concerned. Some companies are better placed in terms of technology.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time is over. Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Public sector companies incurring losses

*161. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any public sector companies under his Ministry have been closed down due to heavy losses; and

(b) if so, what are the names of such companies and the quantum of losses incurred by them so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K. K. TEWARY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Expert Committee on Essential Drugs

*165. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

SHRI N. RAJANGAM:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up an expert Committee to determine the list of essential drugs;

(b) if so, what are the names of its members and the terms of reference made to the Committee; and

(c) by when it is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The names of the Members of the Committee constituted to identify drugs to be included in the proposed category II as partially modified on 2nd March, 1987 are given in the attached statement (*See* below). The Committee's task is to draw up a list of essential drugs which would form Category II.

(c) The Committee shall submit its report within two months.